

## ON THE SOUTH COAST.

### A DISTRICT IN ITALY WHERE EARTHQUAKES COME OFTEN.

A Country Where the People Are Always Ready to Jump and Run—A Region of Sand, Seismic Convulsions and Miasma.

#### Between Two Volcanoes.

The terrible earthquakes reported from the southern extremity of Italy are no novelty to the people of that portion of the peninsula. For over 1,000 years the southern coast of Italy has been subject to recurring seismic convulsions, and their frequency has been so great during the last three centuries that they have practically made a desert of the whole coast from Naples on to the south, following the toe of the giant foot round to the heel. For over a century a curious periodicity has been observed in the eruptions of Vesuvius and Etna. When one is active the other is quiescent, and vice versa. Between the two is Stromboli, that from the earliest times has never been quiet, and with Stromboli as the center of the volcanic disturbance the pendulum swings from Vesuvius on the Bay of Naples to Etna in Sicily, and back again. But there are times, not very frequent, when both are quiet, and then the trouble begins on the South Italian coast, for as sure as Etna and Vesuvius calm down the earthquakes in Calabria begin. It is true there are earthquakes there at other times also; in fact, there is hardly a day in the year when an earthquake may not be looked for at some point along the coast, but when both great volcanoes are quiet

the fact that immunity from the miasma is to be found among the foothills of the range that makes the backbone of the peninsula. Thus, while the coast is deadly, the hills, two or three miles away, are as healthy as a tropical climate can be, and the population of the mountains, though not dense, is yet large when the character of the country is taken into account.

than the district that harvests all its lemons and oranges in Reggio. The neighborhood is one of singular beauty. Picturesque villages crown every hill-top, while across the blue straits of Messina rises a vision of Sicily and the snowy heights of Etna. The country round Reggio is one great orange plantation, and everywhere the perfume of the blossoms and the fragrance of the



REGGIO AND THE SICILIAN COAST.

Yet there is the best possible reason to believe that the entire coast was once healthy, and, in consequence, was also populous. Before the days of the Roman Empire the cities of the Greeks were scattered all along the coast, and so numerous and rich were they that the Italian colonies rivalled the home country. Even during the Roman supremacy the southern end of the peninsula was noted for its wealth, and only after the eruptions of Vesuvius

fruit fill the air. Carts constantly pass through the streets bearing the golden crop to the warehouses, whence it is passed on to the sailing vessels that carry it to the nearest large port, where regular lines of steamers distribute it all over Europe. Formerly this region was as celebrated for its palms as now for its oranges; but that was during the Saracenic occupation, and after the Saracens were driven out the palms were cut down, and now they are almost as much of a curiosity in Reggio as in Paris.

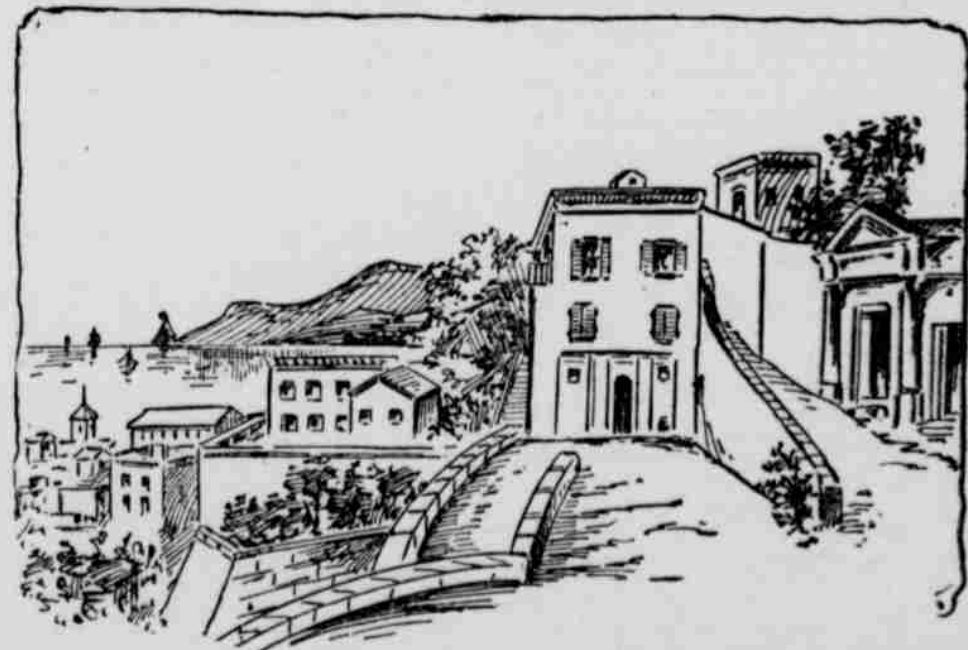
But they are not needed to recall to the beholder the fact that he is in Italy. The marvelous beauty of the women is enough. Every one is a painter's model; every one looks as though she had stepped out of an antique picture. There are hundreds in Reggio who could stand as models for Venus, or Diana, or Juno, or any other of the goddesses that the Greeks loved to depict in stone. Greek faces they have, with the black hair and eyes and swarthy skins of the Latins, with lithe, graceful forms and hands and feet that an empress might envy. They are mere peasants; most of them gain their living by the hardest description of manual labor; yet neither ages of poverty and want nor the admixture of a dozen foreign races has been able to deprive them of that wonderful beauty which is their birthright.

The neighborhood of Reggio is classic ground, for it was there that Demosthenes last touched with the Athenian feet when on the way to Sicily and defeat, and it was there that



NINFA.

Cicero turned back to his death when about to leave Italy after the murder of Caesar. Not far away is the world-famous Scylla, the rock that plays such a part in the story of Ulysses. A town now rises on the precipice, and the whirlpool Charybdis is no longer dangerous to navigators, but some idea of the terror formerly inspired by both may be gained from the words of Homer. A little more than 100 years ago Scylla



SALERNO AND THE SEA, FROM THE PRISON HILL.

above the sea is the top of the great rock on which the town is placed, and in the crannies of the summit, between the lofty fingers, the houses are wedged in as though by force. From the coast below the town is invisible; even from the mountains on the land side it is not easy to make out the houses from the masses of rock that overhang and shut them in from view.

One of the few exceptions to the dreariness of the southern coast is the city of Reggio, where recently such

was the scene of a disaster more deadly than any that could have happened in its earlier ages. A terrible earthquake came on February 5, 1783, and the entire population, deserting their houses at the first shock, gathered on the seashore. The evening came on with the terrified people still in groups on the sand; a renewal of the shocks, more severe than the first, took place. A great headland not far off was literally upset into the sea, a tidal wave swept along the coast, and 4,000 of the people of the town were carried away.

Such is the fate that the dwellers on the South Italian coast must contemplate as possible at any time. But with all their earthquakes and the constant state of alarm in which they live, they are a careless, happy lot. They work as little as possible, stay out of doors as much as they can, and pray for the time to come when a volcano shall break out in the mountain ranges to the north, for they have a pet theory that when there is such an outbreak a relief will be given to the forces of nature, and that by the new outlet between Vesuvius and Etna the fires and gases will pour out and earthquakes will cease. They may be right or they may be wrong, but they are certainly



SOLUNTO.

fearful destruction was wrought by the earthquake. The causes of the difference between the country about Reggio and the rest of the shore are as mysterious as the reasons for the prevalence of the miasma elsewhere, but certain it is, no part of Italy is fairer



A VILLAGE AND CASTLE IN CALABRIA.

earthquakes of unusual violence may be expected, and the expectation is rarely doomed to disappointment.

The consequence is that the whole coast is almost desolate. The frequency of the shocks renders the construction of houses of any considerable size



SCYLLA.

very inadvisable; in fact, a large house is generally tumbled over before it is fairly completed, and so the villages are of small one-story houses, from which the inhabitants are ready to flee into the open air at a moment's notice. They are always expecting an earthquake, are always prepared for one, and never feel the slightest surprise when one comes. No matter what the villager of the Calabrian coast may be doing, he is never so engrossed in his job as not to quit it when he feels the first tremor of the earth beneath his feet, but drops everything and gets into the open air in as few jumps as possible, for he knows that there is danger, if not death, in delay. He thus lives in a constant state of nervousness, and even in sleep is ready to jump and run. A recent traveler, telling of his experience in a coast town, heard an unusual sound, which proved to be the village blacksmith striking a board with his heavy hammer. It was easily explained on investigation, and the entire population was investigating it in less than one minute, for nobody understood it, and every one suspected that it might be some new form of earthquake manifestation.

But the earthquake is not the only drawback to life on the Calabrian coast. One of the most singular changes of climate recorded in the annals of meteorology is that which has come about in the last fifteen or eighteen centuries in certain parts of Italy. The Roman Campagna, for instance, in the days of the Empire, was a singularly pleasant, fertile and salubrious country. All over the plain are to be found the ruins of the villas which once belonged to wealthy Roman gentlemen, who, during the heat of the Italian summer, left the city for the coolness of the plains outside. Now the Campagna is deadly. Every part reeks with miasma, and the incautious traveler who passes a night, or sometimes even a day, in the vicinity of its sluggish streams and fetid marshes always pays the penalty by a long illness—sometimes with his life. The southern coast is, in this respect, like the Campagna. Some points are so unhealthy that men cannot live in their vicinity; there are stations on the railroad that follows the coast so deadly that an appointment as stationmaster is considered equivalent to a sentence of death. For many miles at a stretch the coast is uninhabited even by the acclimated natives, who, when urged to go thither, finish their business by daylight, and toward night go to the hills, where safety is to be found. This is one of the most remarkable things about the desolate coast,

entitled to have a theory on the subject, and after all it is not improbable that they may know as much about the matter in question as the man who, 3,000 or 4,000 miles from the nearest volcano, and in a country that never had an earthquake, sits down at his desk and gravely discusses the causes of seismic convulsions.

### HOW FISH BREATHE.

Require but the Minimum of Oxygen to Keep Up Temperature.

The gills of the fish are situated at the back part of the sides of the head, and consist of a number of vascular membranes, which are generally arranged in double, fringed-like rows, attached to the parts by the base only. In some cases these membranes are feather-shaped; in others, mere folds attached to the sides of the gill cavities. The fish is a cold-blooded animal; that is to say, its temperature is seldom more than a degree or two higher than the water in which it lives. This being true, the creature needs but a very small amount of oxygen to keep the blood at a temperature sufficiently high to sustain life. This oxygen is supplied to the blood of the fish by respiring large quantities of water, or, rather, drinking large quantities of water, and respiring the air separated from it by the gills. This explains why a fish cannot live in a tank of water which has been sifted through the gills time and time again any better than a human being or other animal can in air that has been deprived of all its oxygen by being taken into lungs and expelled without being aerated. Fish that die in the stale water of aquariums may be properly said to drown, because they perish for want of air, the same thing which occasions death by drowning in man and other lung-breathing animals.

### Game at the Cape, 1652.

When the early Dutch settlers landed at the cape in 1652, and under their first Governor, stout Jan Van Riebeeck, took possession of the soil, they found the country one vast and teeming natural preserve of great game. Down to the very shores of the Atlantic and Indian Ocean there wandered a countless multitude of the noblest and rarest species with which a prodigal nature ever blessed the earth. The elephant, rhinoceros, and buffalo roamed everywhere; the hippopotamus bathed his unwieldy form in every stream and river; the lion, leopard, and cheetah pursued their way unchecked; the eland, koodoo,gnu, hartbeest, and a number of other fine antelopes grazed in astonishing plenty.

The mountain zebras paced the shores of the Cape peninsula and every other range of the colony in strong troops; the quagga (now, alas! extinct) thronged the karroo plains. In every corner of that vast land, upon flat and upland, in deep and lonely kloof, and over boundless plain, there wandered, free and undisturbed as they had wandered through countless ages of the past, an unexampled array of wild animals.

The early Dutch settlers scarcely knew what to do with this profusion of game. The elands and koodoes broke into their gardens and vineyards, the elephants and rhinoceroses made hay with their crops; the lions besieged them in their fort and dogged Gov. Van Riebeeck in his garden. There is a pathetic, yet ludicrous entry in the old records of the Cape commanders, bearing date the 22d of January, 1653. "This night," says the chronicler, "it appeared as if the lions would take the fort by storm."—The Fortnightly Review.

### A Methodical Man.

Now this actually happened when Bumstead was at a certain hotel where you put your shoes outside your chamber door at night, to be polished by the porter before you rise in the morning, asserts the Worcester Gazette. Bumstead is a traveling man, who sells—well, never mind what he sells. Sometimes, he does not sell. He travels long distances by rail, but he does a good deal of walking besides, and one result is the growth of a tumor, a mound, an excrescence on one of his toes which would do the heart of a chiropodist good, only to look at it.

Now Bumstead is a methodical man. He prides himself on his business habits. It is his custom to get a shine at the end of his day's work. It is his habit, also, to say to the boy, when he reaches his left foot, "Now just go easy over that little toe, will you?" and the boy polishes the tumor with the greatest delicacy.

On this particular night, Bumstead had neglected the afternoon ceremony, so before he retired he set his shoes out to be blacked in the morning. And he wrote a placard and placed it in the left shoe, reading, "Go easy over that little toe." Then he retired calmly to bed, but the porters laughed earlier than usual the next morning. And they laughed so loud the night clerk went down to see whether the water pipes had not burst.

### An American Coach Horse.

An exchange says: "The experiment station attached to one of the State universities is at present considering the propriety of evolving a type of coach horse distinctly American, superior to the kindred breeds of Europe. It is proposed to select a few large trotting mares, with the desired conformation and action, and a stallion of similar build and gait, and possessed of a good measure of speed, and it will not take long to produce and establish such a valuable type of coach horse."

The first time a man goes out hunting his wife has so much confidence in him that she doesn't buy any meat for supper.

When a man steals a bell he can't avoid ringing it.

## NEW CURRENCY BILL.

### SUBSTITUTE FOR CARLISLE'S PLAN INTRODUCED.

So Many Objections to the Old One that Mr. Springer and Secretary Carlisle Decide to Submit a New Measure—News Notes.

#### Some Important Changes.

After conferences between the Democratic members of the House Committee on Banking and Currency and with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury Mr. Springer introduced a substitute for the Carlisle currency bill. It is substantially a new measure, although some of the sections of the original measure are retained in the new bill.

Two very important features make their appearance for the first time in the substitute. The main one will have the effect of allowing the national banking system to run along, without an arbitrary provision that banks must organize under the new system. The original Carlisle bill contemplated that all national banks must reorganize under the new plan. This would have required them to surrender the government bonds which now constitute the basis of their circulation. But the substitute does away with this imperative change.

The other important feature of the substitute is that it does away with the unknown liability of banks to guarantee the notes of all other banks. This feature of the original bill has been much criticised. It is stated that if a national bank failed its notes would be paid out of its assets and the general "safety fund" made up by all the banks. But if the assets and safety fund were insufficient to pay the notes of the failed bank, then the comptroller of the currency was to make a pro rata assessment on all the banks of the country. The banks said this prospective assessment shouldered them with an unknown risk. In effect it made them supply insurance on all the notes of banks in which they had no concern.

In view of these criticisms the substitute will do away with the assessment plan. The "safety fund" will be the limit of the joint liability of all the banks for the failure of individual banks. They will, however, be compelled to keep up this safety fund by more rigid provisions than appeared in the original bill.

The new bill is arranged so as to show the new features in parentheses. The first section is as follows:

"(a). That (so much of) all acts and parts of acts as required or authorized the deposit of United States bonds to secure circulating notes issued by national banking associations (or as required such associations to deposit or keep on deposit United States bonds for any purpose except as security for public money) be, and the same hereby are repealed (as to associations taking out circulation under this act); and such notes shall not contain the statement that they are so secured."

Section 2 is changed so that banks can not only deposit legal tenders to secure circulation, but also "currency certificates issued under section 5193 of the revised statutes of the United States."

Section 3 is retained entire, except that its provisions are restricted to apply to national banking associations "taking out circulation under this act."

Section 4 inserts "the comptroller of the currency" as the officer to designate the place where notes are to be redeemed.

In Relation to the Safety Fund. In section 5 provision is made for keeping up the safety fund, and in addition to the terms of the original bill it is provided that "the collection of said tax of one-fourth of 1 per cent. for each half-year shall be resumed and continued until the said fund is restored to an amount equal to 5 per cent. upon the total circulation outstanding. All circulation notes of failed national banks not redeemed on presentation to the treasurer of the United States or an assistant treasurer of the United States shall bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum from the date of the suspension of the bank until thirty days after public notice has been given that funds are on hand for their redemption, and such notes shall constitute a first lien upon all moneys thereafter received into the safety fund."

Section 6, allowing the Secretary of the Treasury to invest money in the safety fund in bonds, is the same as the original bill.

Section 7 is entirely new and takes the place of a section which has been eliminated. The new section is as follows:

"Section 7. That every national banking association heretofore organized and having bonds on deposit to secure circulation may withdraw such bonds upon the deposit of lawful money of the United States, now provided by law, and thereafter such association may take out circulation under this act and be entitled to all the rights and privileges and immunities herein conferred."

Section 8 specifies that the portion of the national banking act to be repealed is limited to so much of section 12 "as directs the Secretary of the Treasury to receive deposits of gold and to issue certificates thereon."

Section 9 is substantially the same as in the original bill.

Section 10, providing for State banks, is also the same as in the original bill, except that in the restrictions on State banks a new provision is made that the guaranty fund maintained by them may include "currency certificates issued under section 5,193 of the revised statutes." "Section 11. (That any banking association organized under the laws of any State may deposit with the Treasurer of the United States legal tender notes, and receive certificates therefor in the manner provided in section 5,193 of the revised statutes of the United States and) the Secretary of the Treasury may, under proper rules and regulations to be established by him, permit such banks to prepare and use in the preparation of their notes the distinctive paper used in printing United States securities; but no State bank shall print or engrave its notes in similitude of a United States note or certificate, or national note."

There is a whale in the Hudson River and the man who saw it was sober. William Williams and other residents of Yonkers, N. Y., saw the big fish and say that it spouted streams of water thirty feet into the air.

M. D. Barr, formerly with the Edison Electric Light Company, testified before the Grand Jury at Toronto, Ont., that it cost him \$1,000 to obtain Ald. Hall's influence when there was a franchise pending.

Customs officers are breaking up opium smuggling traffic at Tacoma, Wash.

## A Welcome Usher of '98.

The beginning of the new year will have a welcome usher in the shape of a fresh Almanac, descriptive of the origin, nature and uses of the national tonic and alternative, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. Combined with the descriptive matter will be found calendar and astronomical calculations absolutely reliable for correctness, statistics, illustrations, verses carefully selected, and other mental food highly profitable and entertaining. On this pamphlet, published and printed annually by the Hostetter Company, of Pittsburgh, sixty hands are employed in the mechanical department alone. Eleven months are devoted to its preparation. It is procurable free, of druggists and country dealers everywhere, and is printed in English, German, French, Spanish, Welsh, Norwegian, Holland, Swedish and Bohemian.

### Beehive in a Courthouse Dome.

Since the dial on the south side of the court house was blown out by the late storm workmen engaged in repairing the damage have made the discovery that the large ball just above the dome and beneath the eagle is inhabited by bees, and that their storage of honey is immense. For several years past it has been claimed that bees occupied that ornamental portion of Alachua's Capitol, but it was generally regarded as an unfounded claim. Late investigation, however, leaves no room to doubt that both the bees and honey are there. It is calculated by those who are presumed to be competent to judge that the ball contains not less than 100 pounds of honey. The bees have selected a home where they are not likely to be seriously disturbed—certainly not to the extent of being robbed. There is probably not another hive of bees in the State provided with a home 250 feet above the level of the sea.—Gainesville (Fla.) Sun.

### How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last fifteen years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm. WELLS & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. WALKING, KINSMAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75c per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Testimonials free.

### How!

The proprietor of one of the Southern California "truck farms" is boasting of an onion twenty-six inches in circumference, weighing seven and one-quarter pounds.

GIVE ATTENTION to the first symptoms of a Lung Complaint, and check the dreaded disease in its incipency by using Dr. D. Jayne's Expectant, a safe, old-fashioned remedy for all Affections of the Lungs and Bronchia.

### Silly Creatures.

The ancients entertained the idea that the dew was distilled upon the earth by the moon and stars.

TAKE the Queen & Crescent Route to Knoxville and Asheville. Only Through Car line Cincinnati to Asheville.

TOBACCO grows wild in some parts of Texas.

## Grip—Rheumatism

William Munson, a member of the firm of Munson Bros., the well-known bidders at Clinton, Mo., makes this statement: "In 1891 I had the grip, which settled in my limbs. My right side was paralyzed. I was obliged to walk with a cane. I was in constant pain, and when I moved I had to be assisted. My hands and feet



Mr. Wm. Munson, walled with rheumatism and my fingers would cramp. My druggist sent me six bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla. I took it three times a day and have improved ever since, and now I am well and never feel

## Hood's Sarsaparilla Cures

in my life of 50 years. I took no other medicine but Hood's Sarsaparilla." WILLIAM MUNSON, Clinton, Mo.

Hood's Pills are the best after-dinner

aid, assist digestion, cure headache, etc.

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